

Congratulations on this stance. Suggest boycott all garages not displaying price per gal.

Mr. W.A.P. WITTY, HARROGATE, YORKS. Although I am not entirely anti-European, I do not agree with the changes to or from Imperial measures.

Mr. W.R. JONES, MR. MANCHESTER, LANCs. I was delighted to read of your Anti-Metric Society. I also want to keep my heritage alive. I do not intend to become a "European".

MRS. B. MATHER, DORSET I feel that metrication is taking away something from our heritage. Don't you?

Mr. C. SMITH, SURREY I fully agree with the Imperial measures campaign.

Mr. W. WILSON, CHRISTCHURCH, N.Z. You may be pleased to know that in the building industry Imperial measurement is very much used.

Mr. J. ADAMS, BERKSHIRE [Imperial Resistance] makes gratifying reading. I am delighted that a Society exists, the aims of which will find an echo in the hearts of all thinking people.

Mr. G.M. HUBBARD, SURREY

THE foregoing extracts represent only a small sample of the many letters we have been privileged to receive. Metrication goes against the deepest interests of our people. It is an attack on the life and traditions we hold dear; like so many of the soulless changes that have been forced upon us over the last three decades, it makes us feel like strangers in our own land, cuts us off from our history and estranges one generation from another. People in this country are tired of having bureaucrats tell us how to talk, think and act in our daily lives; writing off a thousand years of tradition for the latest political fad. There is a new spirit of resistance in the air. □

MONEY, THE TOUCHSTONE

SHOULD we campaign against decimal money and use the language of pounds, shillings and pence in our personal conversation? Some people suggest that this is already a lost cause and that we could weaken our case by fighting a change that has already been generally accepted. Well, we agree that the main thrust of our campaign should be against metric weights and measures which most Britons dislike intensely. But there are a number of reasons why we should not admit defeat on the money issue:

1) Decimal money is "generally accepted". Yes, but let us be realistic. There will be increasing pressure in coming years to get metric "generally accepted". If we are unable or unwilling to stand up against this sort of pressure, we may as well give up here and now. By standing against decimal

money, we make it clear that we will never accept metrication, not even if it lasts for twenty years. We make it clear that we are not just flash-in-the-pan protesters who make a fuss while a thing is being done but then evaporate once it is firmly in place and "generally accepted". Many people opposed decimal money when it came in, but eventually gave in. The Bureaucrats will assume that it is the same with metric. With good reason they take it that those who accept decimal money today will accept metric measures tomorrow. Let us show them that we accept neither.

2) Decimal money was the first major attempt to change the language of our daily lives by *diktat*. It represents all the attitudes we are fighting against now. We know that we are not going to get rid of it overnight, but the first changes come on the Home Front. Why should we, a dozen times a day, pay homage to the bureaucrat and the anti-traditionalist by talking in his un-English, clinical "new pence"? By refusing to use metric money, we are reclaiming our own life and speech.

3) Most importantly: "the best defence is a good offence". By merely opposing metrication, we are fighting a purely defensive battle. We must not only defend, but attack. We must seek to take back some of the ground the enemy thought was safely in his grip. Talk in inches and you are only being mildly conservative. Talk in shillings and you are making a stand. When decimalisation was introduced, the vast majority of "5p pieces" and "10p pieces" were still inscribed *one shilling* and *two shillings*. Many still are. A spirited nation would have rejected the newpence and gone on talking of a "bob" or a "florin". In other countries, similar changes have never been accepted in ordinary speech; but the British passively obeyed and allowed their everyday speech to be tampered with. Well, it is not too late to resist. We are delighted by the numbers of young people who have never even known real English money who want to go back to it.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

To begin with, we can start *talking* in English money, at least among like-minded friends and family. Remember "5p" = 1/-, "10p" = 2/-, "20p" = 4/- and "50p" = 10/-. Remember that all round numbers can simply be doubled and the nought struck off. So if something is marked "30p", it costs you six shillings.

Remember that cheques for whole numbers of pounds can always be written correctly: £10-0-0, not "£10-00". Most of you wrote your membership cheques this way, we are delighted to say.

Next time, we hope to give fuller information for instant approximation of both metric measures and decimal money into English. In the meantime, remember to write to your local paper, and if you have any other ideas for action, pop away and tell us all about them.

Imperial

RESISTANCE

"Don't Give an Inch"

The Journal of the Anti-Metric Society

ANTI-METRIC SOCIETY ADVANCES!

WHAT YOU CAN DO

WITH the second issue of *Imperial Resistance* we are delighted to be able to report that the Anti-Metric Society is making splendid progress. An excellent write-up in the *Sunday Express* has alone brought in well over a hundred enquiries and about two-thirds of those who enquired about the Society then joined. This is an excellent "conversion rate" as the marketing types say.

The Society was the subject of a very favourable feature on *Network South East*, the B.B.C. television regional news programme which follows the six o'clock news and which covers an area which ranges from the Kenish coast to Oxford, including, of course, the whole London area. The cameraman who "shot" this feature was a firm anti-metricist and kept regaling the interviewer with arguments in favour of the Imperial system between "takes"! We were told that the programme, shown at peak time, has an audience of several millions, so this was an important step in putting our message across to the nation.

Miss Trill and Miss Langridge have also given interviews on various local wireless stations including Oxford, Nottingham and a long one lasting 20 minutes and followed by a telephone discussion with listeners-in on the Midlands wireless network which covers nine Midlands wireless stations. We are hoping to make tape-recordings of these interviews available to our members. These will be useful for information, for supplying ammunition for arguments and for study by any of our members who may be thinking of taking the Society's message onto the airwaves.

Local publicity is not difficult to obtain if one has a clear message to put across and can put it across clearly; however, local newspapers and wireless stations are much more responsive if local people take the initiative. This is where you come in.

It is important for our members to take the initiative in this. The Nottingham wireless interview, for example, was wholly due to the initiative of Mr. James Woodward who got in touch with his local wireless station to tell them about the society in his first days as a member. Mr. F.W. Passy of Oxford has also written a splendid letter which was published in the *Oxford Mail* arguing against metrication and giving the name and address of the society. Why not write to your local paper or wireless station giving your views on metrication? Do not forget to mention the name and address of the Society. That is how we can grow!

A good idea is to look out for some local news item which bears in some way upon the issue of metrication and then to write a letter giving your comments upon it, ending by saying that any one who feels strongly about these matters should join the Anti-Metric Society, B.M. Perfect, London, WC1N 3XX. You could mention that the membership fee is £10-0s-0d. Stress that Imperial measures are as (or more) rational than metric and are a valuable part of our heritage. □

FEASEL POPPING

SPEAKING of such things, where is your money going? Well, some of it has been spent on the equipment upon which this newsletter is being produced. The last one was done on equipment borrowed from Perfect Publications, and while we are still using some of Perfect's machinery, now we are able to do the main lay-out work ourselves, which should help us to avoid the delays which some of our older members have experienced (sorry chaps! — and chapesses!).

We have placed a few advertisements, and, of course we shall have to pay for the printing of this and future newsletters. So that, as the old song says, is the way the money goes. □

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

We have received nothing short of a flood of post as a result of recent publicity, so we are devoting much of this issue to printing some of the letters and comments we have received from new members and from the general public.

FACTORY-OWNER RESISTS

I have fought metrification since it was first mooted in every way that I possibly could. Any organisation that can block further metrification and possibly reverse existing metrification I would be happy to join.

I run a small factory and it has not gone metric excepting where we are forced to do so by having to deal with suppliers who offer no alternative. All our measurements and machine-tools are still in Imperial and will continue to be so unless we are absolutely forced out of it.

Mr. D. CHAPMAN, LINCOLNSHIRE.

EURO-YUPPIES

I should be interested to receive information about your society, whose aims I strongly support.

I have no doubt that the public dislike the change, but the issue has so far gone by default. At one stage I drafted a defence of the old system, but most of the potential outlets were dominated by Euro-yuppies. I hope that you may have better success.

MISS M. COLTON, ESSEX
We shall be publishing extracts from Miss Colton's admirable study in future issues, and may one day be in a position to publish the whole thing as a separate booklet.

NAPOLEON and HITLER

My wife and I were delighted that some one has at last decided to do something about this ridiculous insistence on everything being conducted in tens. It seems that Napoleon may have lost the battle but he obviously won the peace. It is as though Hitler left behind a legacy of, say, architecture and roadbuilding which was second to none, which every planner now slavishly follows — and I'm not sure that he didn't!

Having read the report of your launching of a society which will address itself to the removal of the bureaucratic computer from ruling our lives, we herewith enclose a cheque for ten (old) pounds with the hope that it will help your crusade.

ERIC & EANSWYTHE LAMAN, WILTSHIRE

MURDERING OUR NATIONS' IDENTITY

Please enrol me as a member of your Anti-Metric Society forthwith. I enclose a cheque for £10-0s-0d as my first year's membership fee. I have become increasingly convinced that

metrification has been cunningly used to disguise inflation and as a nation we have passively accepted price rises and weight reductions because we don't really understand... Seven shillings for tiny bottles of fruit juice, the two-pounds-a-gallon barrier for petrol blurred by the fact that garages no longer need to display the price per gallon and nobody really understands the litre situation.

People don't ask "How many kilometres does your car do to the litre?", do they?

I voted to join the European Economic Community because I thought it would be advantageous both from a free trade and a peaceful co-existence point of view. I did not consider for one moment that I was murdering my nation's individuality and identity.

Mr. NICHOLAS P. TOMLINSON, LANCASHIRE

EUROPEAN EXPORTER RESISTS

I found your address recently in one of the newspapers and shall be pleased to receive details of your Society and its aims.

Despite a quarter of a century spent working as an export sales manager in Europe, I remain as dedicated an opponent of the Metric and the decimal/centesimal systems, to say nothing of S.I. in its various forms, as I was in the early '60s when I first became aware of the inability of Continental shop-assistants to carry out in their heads the simple mental additions then routinely practised by those serving in our own green-grocers', drapers' and hardware shops.

If you would like a copy of my paper "Psychological Barriers in Mental Arithmetic" I shall be pleased to make one available to you. It makes some very relevant, if controversial, points in favour of the Imperial system, or something like it. Good luck to the Society in its difficult task.

Mr. PETER M.A. CROZIER, BENKSHIRE

TOEING the LINE

I must say that your attitude the metric system [sic] scares the hell out of me. Isn't it enough that Britain is out of step with European policies now with regard to monetary [sic], farming, space exploration, conservation etc. [?]?

Not to mention our distressingly lethargic attitude towards 1993 [sic]. We are in for one hell of a shock in a few years' time, out of step and out of touch, may the gods help us.

It does not surprise me then, that you want to go back in time and keep Imperial measures. It just throws me into despair.

Your argument seems to be that it is part of our cultural heritage. Big deal, so was slave trading, the class system, oppression [sic] any one whose skin colour was dark, stealing peoples' land, blasting the wildlife to bits, to name but a few.

My point is some of our heritage should be kept some of it should not. Your proposal should not.

To have the gall to suggest that technology should be used to 'deal' with Imperial measures annoys me. Technology is for the future, not the past.

One thing that does not surprise me in the least about this affair is that women are behind it. I note also that a woman is behind our present situation with regard to the E.E.C.

Conclusions please, gentlemen.

Mr. N. FRANCIS, LIVERPOOL, LANCASHIRE
How delightfully chivalrous. This is the only letter of opposition we have so far received, and we have printed it in full, so no one can say we are not scrupulously fair! Two comments only. Is it not interesting that one who has swallowed the metric line has also swallowed all the stock propaganda about "the class system" and our proud national and colonial history? And "technology is for the future not the past". Perhaps, but why should we accept a tawdry line of propaganda about what belongs to the future and what to the past? As far as we are concerned, Imperial is the rational system, the system of the future. Metric is an outdated relic of the French Revolution — as are most of the other ideas which lie behind this letter.

BUILDER RESISTS

My working interests are in the building industry, and I have always been opposed to Great Britain adopting the Metric System.

In the past, people from other countries were interested and intrigued by our Imperial and monetary values, but now we are no different from other European countries.

Also, I find that metric measurements in the building industry are not so accurate as the old Imperial dimensions.

Mr. J.H. WILLIAMS, CARMARTHENSHIRE

ASTRONOMER RESISTS

Count me in! Ages ago, when we submitted to Europe and turned over to Centigrade, our motto was "Forever Fahrenheit!"

Yours Imperially,

Dr. PATRICK MOORE, SUSSEX

PRACTICAL DISADVANTAGES

Having read *Imperial Resistance*, I think you have understressed the practical disadvantages of metric. The decimal conversions between the different units is often stressed — yet in many contexts the supporters of the system use expressions like "1000mm" rather than "1 metre". If they do that, what is the point of having the different units in a decimal relationship? We always used to refer to 30 feet (or 30 foot) in some contexts, rather than two yards. We still

do. Foot, yard, etc. are individual units of practical size; their relationship to each other is a secondary consideration. No one needs to know as a matter of daily life what a pint of milk weighs — some things are measured by weight, others by volume. They may be proud of knowing that a litre of milk weighs a kilogramme, but apart from being untrue, it is, for practical purposes, useless.

Mr. A. TURNER, WOLVERHAMPTON, STAFFS.

SCANDINAVIA RESISTS

I have lived in various European countries for many years and have noted how most of them use Imperial measures even today. I myself have opposed the introduction of Napoleonic measures in this country, and will not be satisfied until we abandon them completely.

Finnish and Danish tailors use inches when measuring their clients, Denmark and Iceland use inches for piping (they call the joints *feelings*), and the Scandinavian timber trade measures wood by the Standard, or 100 cubic feet. Carpenters likewise use inches (in Danish: *tum* — thumb), and in Denmark you can still ask for and get half a pound of butter and a gill of cream.

Mr. JUSTIN BROOKE, CORNWALL

HEADMASTER RESISTS

I was a Headmaster in Berkshire for 25 years before I retired 16 years ago. I still think in Imperial measures and remember all my table! When I buy petrol I always have £10 worth and would not know what a litre looks like, or, indeed, a metre.

I remember going into a shop in Newbury a few years ago to buy some flex. The shop was kept by a former pupil and when I asked for eight yards of flex, she said "you mean metres, sir". I replied that I had taught her to measure in yards, feet and inches, and that was what I wanted. It took her quite a long time, with the aid of a calculator, to do the necessary conversion!

Mr. C.S. MOCK, PEMBROKESHIRE

SHORT COMMENTS

I was most pleased to read of your campaign to eliminate metrification in all of its forms.

Mr. P.H. LOVE, DEVON

I am but fifteen, yet am very interested in re-turning to complete Imperialism.

Mr. C. ROSSSELL, SURREY

Having been a World War I baby, I have indeed found it hard to come to terms with metrification and decimalisation. It would indeed be marvellous to go back to Imperial and £.s.d.

Mr. I.R. SCUTT, YORKS.
I am all in favour. Down with litres, kilos and degrees centigrade. Let us revert to £.s.d. etc.
Mr. F.W. PASSEY, OXFORD